

## PLAYING FOR BIG STAKES

PEAL MEASURE.

RYMEN IF THE DRESSED STONE LAW REMAINS ON THE STATUTE BOOKS--"MIKE" DADY'S MISSION AT THE CAPITOL.  
[FROM THE REGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.]

Albany, Feb. 24.—There has been a creditable lack of scandals thus far in the history of the Legislature of 1895, but it is possible that this immunity from having some dark stains upon its fair record will not long be its experience.

Every one long about the Legislature sees a good many bills slipping toward Governor Morton of an unsavory nature. Plainly, they are "strikes"; bills never introduced to be passed but to be used to bring money, if possible, out of some rich corporation. It is a satisfaction to know in looking upon these bills that the corporations attacked, according to report, have refused to give any bribes to impede the progress of the measures, and are depending upon Governor Morton to wring the necks of the corporations. As a result of this policy of the corporations, some members of the Legislature may in future complain of having had "a poor work" of it, and the political committees who "protect" corporations at Albany "for a consideration" may have less money to expend in the fall in the bribery of voters and the purchase of rural newspapers and other obligations by paying them for printing campaign literature; but the people of the State will gain by it.

There are signs that the corrupt element in

the Legislature, which always exists, has gone rather far afield in its search for irregular compensation. One of the acts which it apparently hopes will yield it some revenue is the bill of Assemblyman Van Keuren, of Ulster County, repealing the Tohn Dressed Stone act. Certainly quarry-owners of this State, it is plain, are opposing the repeal of that act, since it gives them a monopoly of the "dressed-stone" business in this State, so far as the business of the State or of cities is concerned. These quarrymen are playing for "big stakes," since the city of New York is about to build a \$50,000,000 rapid transit road, and needs a large amount of dressed stone for the project. A. B. Boardman, counsel of the Rapid Transit Commissioners, said here last week that the Commissioners desired to use a good deal of granite in the construction of the road. Granite quarries, he further said, had not been developed in this State. Michael J. Dady, the politician-contractor of Brooklyn, Mr. Boardman affirmed, had an undeveloped granite quarry and wished to give it a "fantastic value" by keeping the Dressed Stone law upon the statute-books. Michael J. Dady has been in Albany a good deal this winter, hanging about the Capitol.

One of the speakers before the Committee on Trade and Manufactures of the Assembly, who have charge of the Van Keuren Repeal bill, hauled out of his pocket two polished specimens of granite which it was understood came from

But Daddy is reputed to own other quarries in this State. For instance, he is said to own one at Breakneck Mountain, upon the Hudson River Railroad. There paving blocks are quarried. If Daddy owns this quarry it would be most decidedly to his pecuniary interest that the State should not permit any Yankees from Connecticut to compete with him in the New-York market when the city government should ask for bids.

The rural Republican Assemblymen, who are in the majority in the Assembly, will find it worth their while to look into this Dressed Stone law matter. They represent the taxpayers of the State as few men do; and those taxpayers

will be full of indignation as soon as they discover that the price of dressed stone used in public works of the State, in the canals, in State armories, schools, prisons and charitable institutions, has been unnaturally enhanced by a law which gives a monopoly to the quarrymen of this State and prevents the State officers from buying

stone in the cheapest market, wherever it may be. The voters in November next will be asked to vote upon the proposition to expend \$3,000,000 in improving the State's canals. A good deal of that work of improvement will need dressed stone. Is the Superintendent of Public Works justified in the cost of this improvement enormously

increased by the Dressed Stone law—with the aim of giving some quarrymen an unnatural profit? Indeed, there may be some question if the people of this State will favor improvement of the canals if the improvement is to be needlessly costly; if it is to enrich certain quarry-

The Dressed Stone law is also an innovation of a dangerous nature. If the Legislature of this State passes such a law, attacking the working men of other States by preventing the free sale of their products within the borders of this State the people of New-York will experience within a short time retaliatory action from the States af-

short time elementary school. Mr. Boardman, while here last week, said the law was an interference with interstate commerce, and, in his judgment as a lawyer, an unconstitutional act. He also said that he was an ardent Republican, but he would say the law was a disgrace to the Republican Legislature of this State. The only consolation in this

1894 which passed it. The only consolation in the matter is that the Dressed Stone act was introduced in the Legislature of 1894 by Michael F. Tobin, a Democratic Assemblyman from New York. The Republican Assemblymen from the rural districts who voted for it probably did not see its effect upon the expense account of the

State or they would have voted against it. Having been introduced by a New-York member they thought it affected only New-York City. Now that the effect of the law upon the cost of State work is becoming visible to them, it is to be hoped they will vote unanimously for its repeal. Michael J. Dady, as the associate of John Y. McKane and

The Committee on Trades and Manufactures, which has the Van Keuren Repeal bill in charge, is composed of Lawson, of New-York; Fuller, of Jefferson; Rockwell, of Kings; Hamilton, of New-York; Rider, of Otsego; Clark, of Niagara; Wilks,

of New-York; Corrigan, of New-York, and Fitzgerald, of New-York. It cannot be said that Speaker Fish made a felicitous selection in making up this committee. Mr. Lawson, of course, can be depended upon to vote to report the Repeal bill favorably, but it is to be suspected a majority of the committee will oppose it. In that

case the Assembly should take a hand in the matter. The bill ought to have been reported either favorably or unfavorably long ago. The Rapid Transit Commissioners of New-York should have their hands untied at once by the passage of the Repeal act. If a repeal bill is not passed soon there will be good reason for thinking that the

TO MARCH ABOUT THE STATE.

Albany, Feb. 24 (Special).—Adjutant-General E. A. McAlpin is being warmly commended for his decision to give the National Guard other practice than that obtained each year at the State Camp.

at Peekskill. The idea of having the soldiers make a march through the country districts, camping in a different place each night, and caring for themselves all the time, originated with the Adjutant-General, and will be tried during the coming season.

"The plan has not been perfected yet," said Adjutant-General McAlpin yesterday. "It will, of course, take some time to arrange all the details of the march. My idea is to send out the 7th and 23d regiments of New-York, and the 74th, of Buffalo with three battalions of separate companies."

through the State. The men will go as battalions not as regiments. In this manner we can give them practical field duty. They will have to cook, pitch their tents, do picket duty, and so on. They will have six days and six nights of regular soldier life."

This plan will not in any way interfere with the regular work at State Camp. In fact, it will be begun on a small scale until the success of the idea is demonstrated. For this reason the men will be sent out in small bodies, because they can be handled more easily. The men will go out

four companies at a time, under command of a major, thus making parties of about 400 each.